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*Fact sheet current as of July 2000*



## Fact Sheet 18th Wing Kadena Air Base

### *Keystone of the Pacific*

The 18th Wing is the host unit at Kadena Air Base on Okinawa, Japan. It is the largest U.S. military installation in the Asia-Pacific region and the largest combat wing in the Air Force. The 18th Wing maintains combat readiness to support air operations taskings as directed by the Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Command, through Pacific Air Forces and 5th Air Force.

The wing is composed of five groups: operations, logistics, support, civil engineer and medical. The wing provides facilities for US Navy, Marine Corps, Army, and other forces assigned to or transiting Kadena.



The 18th Wing's mission is to defend U.S. and Japanese mutual interests by providing a responsive staging and operational airbase with integrated, deployable, forward-based airpower.

Approximately 7,000 military members are assigned to the wing.

The total base population of more than 24,000 from six major commands also includes dependants, U.S. civilians, Japanese base workers, and contractors. The wing manages \$6 billion in resources, including 74 assigned F-15, KC-135, E-3, and HH-60 aircraft valued at more than \$4 billion. Other equipment and capital assets are valued at approximately \$2 billion.

Kadena's presence on Okinawa contributes significantly to the island's economy. The base's annual economic impact is estimated at \$700 million. This includes payment of local employee salaries, rent for off-base housing, and contracts with local companies. Additionally, approximately 7,400 Japanese citizens who own land on Kadena receive land lease payments from the Japanese government.

# KADENA TEAM OVERVIEW

People		*Aircraft	
<i>Kadena AB</i>		<i>18th Wing</i>	<i>Associate Units</i>
Active duty:	7,000	F-15: 48	MC-130: 10
Family Members:	10,200	KC-135: 15	RC-135: 1-2
Civilians:	1,400	AWACS: 2	P-3: 3-10
Local Nationals:	3,200	HH-60: 9	C-130: 1
Avg. Monthly Contractors:	+1,000	C-12: 2	

*Figures current as of December 1999*

## 18th Wing Factoids

- Kadena Air Base is the U.S. Air Force's largest overseas air base in terms of population and assigned aircraft.
- An F-15C can carry up to eight air intercept missiles (AIM) including every variety of AIM-9, AIM-7 and AIM-120 advanced medium range air-to-air missile (AMRAAM).
- The F-15C achieved the most air-to-air success of any combat aircraft during the Gulf War.
- The 18th Wing KC-135 tanker aircraft and crews provide refueling or planning support to all aircraft transiting this region.
- The majority of 18th Wing flying occurs between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

## Kadena Air Base Demographics

- Average age of military members: 30 years old
- Percent of military enlisted: 90%
- Percent of military officer: 10%
- Percent of enlisted members who are married: 69%
- Percent of officer members who are married: 73%
- Percent of military population who are minorities: 35%
- Percent of military population who are women: 17%
- Percent of enlisted members on 1st enlistment: 30%
- Percent of enlisted members on 2nd enlistment: 20%
- Percent of enlisted members on 3rd or later enlistment: 50%
- Average Tour Lengths:
  - Married enlisted: 3 years 9 months
  - Single enlisted: 2 years 9 months
  - Married officer: 2 years 10 months
  - Single officer: 2 years 9 months
- Officer Commissioning Source:
  - Reserve Officer Training Corps program: 39%
  - Air Force Academy: 22%
  - Officer Training School: 17%
  - Direct Appts/Civilians: 20%
  - Others: 2%

## 18TH WING AIRCRAFT



### F-15 C/D EAGLE

**Crew Size:** F-15C: one, F-15D: two

**Unit Cost:** \$30.3 million (FY97)

**Mission:** All-weather, extremely maneuverable, tactical fighter designed to gain and maintain air superiority in aerial combat.

**Features:** Heads-up display, advanced radar, inertial navigation system, tactical navigation system, can be armed with AIM-7F/M Sparrow (radar-guided, air-to-air missile), AIM-120 AMRAAM (beyond-visible-range, radar-guided, air-to-air missile) and/or AIM-9L/M Sidewinder (supersonic, heat-seeking air-to-air missile)

**Dimensions:** Length: 63 ft, 9 in; Height: 18 ft, 8 in and Wingspan: 42 ft, 10 in

**Max Speed:** 1,875 mph (Mach 2.5-plus)

**Range:** 3,450 miles with three external fuel tanks



### KC-135R STRATOTANKER

**Crew Size:** Four or five

**Unit Cost:** \$54.6 million (FY97)

**Mission:** Refuel Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Allied aircraft.

**Features:** Modified Boeing 707, four turbojets, flying boom and cargo deck that can carry up to 83,000 lbs of cargo.

**Dimensions:** Length: 136 ft, 3 in; Height: 38 ft, 4 in; and Wingspan: 130 ft, 10 in.

**Fuel Capacity:** 200,000 lbs. of fuel

**Speed:** Max speed at 30,000 ft is 610 mph

**Max. Takeoff Weight:** 322,500 pounds

**Range:** 11,192 miles with 120,000 lbs of transfer fuel



### E-3B/C SENTRY (AWACS)

**Crew Size:** Flight crew of four plus mission crew of 13-19 specialists

**Unit Cost:** \$270 million (FY97)

**Mission:** Provides all-weather surveillance, command, control and communications, needed by commanders of U.S. and Allied air defense forces.

**Features:** Modified Boeing 707 with rotating radar dome, navigation, identification friend or foe (IFF) and communications

**Dimensions:** Length: 145 ft, 6 in; Height: 41 ft, 4 in; and Wingspan: 130 ft, 10 in.

**Rotodome:** 30 ft in diameter, 6 ft thick, mounted 11 ft above fuselage

**Speed:** 360 mph for optimum cruise

**Endurance:** More than 11 hours (unrefueled)



### HH-60G PAVE HAWK

**Crew Size:** Three plus two pararescuemen

**Unit Cost:** \$16.2 million (FY97)

**Mission:** Provide combat and peacetime search and rescue and various mission support activities worldwide.

**Features:** Forward-looking infrared sensor, weather/ground mapping radar with beacon tracking and integrated navigation system, retractable in-flight refueling probe, rescue hoist

**Dimensions:** Length: 64 ft, 9 in; Height: 16 ft, 9 in; and Rotary Diameter: 53 ft, 9 in

**Max Speed:** 222 miles per hour

**Range:** 580 statute miles, 504 nautical miles

## Kadena Air Base History

**1945** - Fighting during the Battle of Okinawa, World War II, ended.

**Aug. 7, 1945** - Aircrews of the 333rd and 346th Bombardment Groups and the 316th Bombardment Wing arrived at Kadena.

**May 15, 1949** - The Air Force on Okinawa was redesignated 20th Air Force when moved to Kadena.

**June 28, 1950** - The first combat mission of the 20th Air Force was flown during the Korean War by B-29s of the 19th Bomb Group.

**Nov. 1, 1954** - The 18th Fighter Bomber Wing, including the 12th and 67th Fighter Bomber Squadrons, arrived at Kadena.

**Mar. 1, 1955** - 20th Air Force was inactivated at Kadena. Simultaneously, the 313th Bomber Wing became Headquarters, 313th Air Division and was assigned to Far East Air Forces upon its activation.

**July 15, 1955** - The 44th Fighter Bomber Squadron and the 18th Fighter Bomber Wing moved from Clark AB, Philippines, to Kadena.

**Oct. 30, 1962** - The first three-plane increment of F-101 Thunderchiefs arrived.

**Jan. 15, 1967** - The 400th Munitions Maintenance Squadron was assigned to Kadena's 313th Air Division.

**January 1968** - The seizing of the USS Pueblo by the North Koreans prompted deployment of the wing with its single fighter squadron, the 12th, to Osan AB, South Korea. The 44th and 67th had been reassigned.

**April 1, 1970** - The 376th Strategic Wing, with KC/RC-135s, was activated at Kadena.

**1971** - The 67th and 44th Tactical Fighter Squadrons were reassigned to Kadena.

**May 15, 1972** - The Ryukyu Islands reverted to Government of Japan control.

**September 1974** - Although there were already dispensaries, hospitals and clinics on Kadena, about this time the first USAF Clinic came into being on Kadena.

**Dec. 19, 1975** - The 25th Tactical Fighter Wing with F-4D aircraft came to Kadena.

**Aug. 18, 1976** - Kadena F-4s deployed to South Korea on alert after two U.S. Army officers were killed in the Panmunjom Truce Zone.

**Sep. 29, 1979** - The 67th arrived at Kadena equipped with F-15 C/D aircraft, becoming Pacific Air Forces' first F-15 squadron.

**Oct. 1, 1979** - The 961st Airborne Warning and Control Support Squadron, flying E-3 AWACS, came to Kadena.

**September 1983** - The 313th Air Division assisted in the search and salvage operations following the Soviet shootdown of Korean Airline flight 007.

**May 10, 1985** - Marked the first time the Hughes Trophy had ever been won by the same wing three years in a row. The 12th, 44th and 67th Tactical Fighter Squadrons each won this award for best Air Force air defense squadron.

**Jan. 21, 1990** - The SR-71 Blackbird had its final flight from Kadena.

**1991** - The 376th Strategic Wing, with its KC-135s and RC-135s, supported Desert Shield and Desert Storm where they were the first to fly operational sorties. The 603rd Military Airlift Support Group processed over 3,000 Marines shipped to Saudi Arabia.

**May 1, 1991** - Over 40 Kadena personnel deployed in support of Operation Sea Angel after a cyclone hit Bangladesh.

**June 1991** - Clark AB in the Philippines was destroyed when Mt. Pinatubo erupted. The Kadena Law Center sent people to Clark AB to help with claims. Other units sent people to help with closing out and packing up offices.

**Oct. 1, 1991** - Kadena units reorganized, making the 18th Wing one of the largest combined wings in the Air Force. On this day the 376th was inactivated and the KC-135 mission and aircraft were assumed by the 18th and the RC-135 by Air Combat Command.

**March 30, 1992** - Kadena received an "Excellent" during an Air Force-wide Unit Effectiveness Inspection.

**Oct. 24, 1992** - The Kadena Team competed in William Tell '92 and came back with six first-place trophies to give them an overall win.

**Feb. 1, 1993** - The 33rd Rescue Squadron with its HH-60s became part of the 18th Wing.

**Sep. 30, 1993** - The 13th Airlift Squadron was inactivated.

**June 1, 1994** - The 18th Civil Engineer Squadron was redesignated the 18th Civil Engineer Group.

**July 1, 1994** - The 603rd Airlift Support Group became the 633rd Air Mobility Support Squadron.

**September 1996** - 18th Wing KC-135s supported Operation Desert Strike in response to Iraqi aggression in Northern Iraq.

**September 1996** - Kadena sent forces to Andersen AFB, Guam, to support Joint Task Force Pacific Haven, which provided refuge for Kurds fleeing Iraq.

**Oct 2, 1996** - The 67th Fighter Squadron deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Southern Watch, the enforcement of the no-fly zone in Southern Iraq.

**May 1997** - Kadena is rated "excellent" during a major Combat Employment Readiness Inspection that tested the base's ability to transition to wartime mode.

**February 1998** - Kadena members took part in Pacific Air Forces' first Air Expeditionary Force, the 3rd Air Expeditionary Group, which deployed to Kwang Ju, South Korea, for four months of exercises and training.

**June 19, 1998** - Members of the 44th Fighter Squadron deployed to Southwest Asia to support Operation Southern Watch.

**Nov. 6, 1998** - Kadena units deployed to Incirlik, Turkey, to take part in Operation Northern Watch. The operation enforces the northern no-fly zone over Iraq.

**June 1999** - Kadena pilots trained with Japan Air

Self Defense Force at the first Cope North conducted at Guam. It was also the first exercise outside Japan for JASDF members.

**July 1999** - The 33rd Rescue Squadron performed nighttime search and rescue training for the first time with the Japan Air Self Defense Force during Cope Angel 99.

**July 1999** - The 67th Fighter Squadron

deployed to Operation Northern Watch at Incirlik AB.

**March 2000** - The 44th Fighter Squadron deployed to Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia, to take part in Operation Southern Watch.

**June 2000** - The 67th Fighter Squadron replaced the 44th at Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia, in support of Operation Southern Watch.

## 18th Wing Units

### 18th Operations Group

6 Squadrons, 1,800 people

*Mission:* Conducts the wing's flying mission on and off station.

### 18th Logistics Group

6 Squadrons, 2,400 people

*Mission:* Sustains Kadena Team's combat capability.

### 18th Medical Group

4 Squadrons, 450 people

*Mission:* Provides medical care to base and joint service personnel.

### 18th Civil Engineer Group

2 Squadrons, 1,400 people

*Mission:* Performs base maintenance and facilities improvement. Responsible for all U.S. military housing on Okinawa.

### 18th Support Group

4 Squadrons, 3,600 people

*Mission:* Provides personnel care and services for the base and guests, to include the Okuma Recreation Area, NCO Academy and Airman Leadership School.

## Major Associate Units

### 353rd Special Operations Group

*Air Force Special Operations Command*

*Mission:* Support special operations in the Pacific region.

### Commander, Fleet Activities Okinawa

*United States Navy*

*Mission:* Provide logistic support and services to U.S. Seventh Fleet units operating in the Western Pacific Region.

### Support Center Pacific

*Air Force Material Command*

*Mission:* Avionics maintenance.

### Det. 15, 372nd Training Squadron

*Air Education Training Command*

*Mission:* Train aircraft, equipment and munitions personnel.

### 633rd Air Mobility Support Squadron

*Air Mobility Command*

*Mission:* Manage all passenger and cargo aircraft transiting Kadena.

### 390th Intelligence Squadron

*Air Intelligence Agency*

*Mission:* Provide critical, near real time intelligence data.

### 82nd Reconnaissance Squadron

*Air Combat Command*

*Mission:* Conducts RC-135 missions in the Pacific.

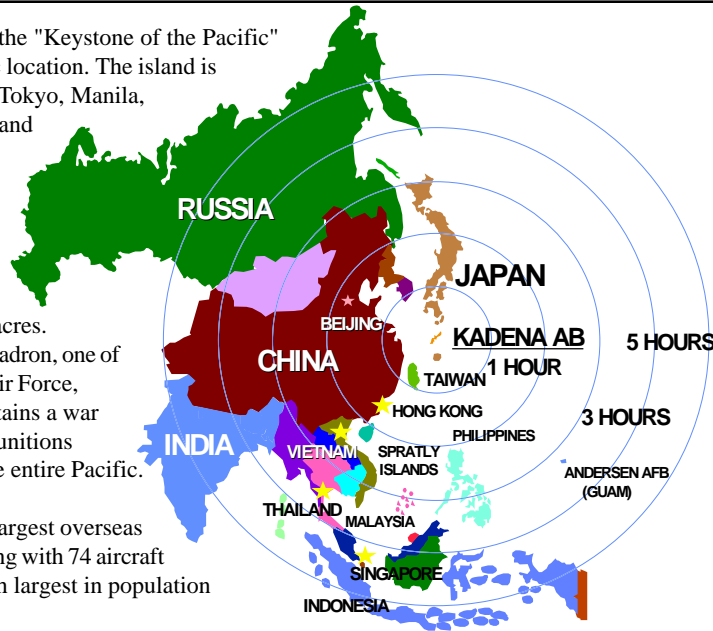
### Det. 3, 311th Human Systems Wing

*Air Force Material Command*

*Mission:* Consultant/Analytical.

# KADENA AIR BASE KEY FACTS

- Okinawa is known as the "Keystone of the Pacific" because of its strategic location. The island is about 900 miles from Tokyo, Manila, Seoul and Hong Kong and 1,200 miles west of Guam.
- Kadena Air Base proper has 4,930 acres with a munitions storage area of 6,280 acres.
  - The Munitions Squadron, one of the largest in the Air Force, operates and maintains a war reserve material munitions storage area for the entire Pacific.
- The 18th Wing is the largest overseas operational combat wing with 74 aircraft assigned and the fourth largest in population in the Air Force.
  - There are two parallel, 12,100-foot (3,690-meter) runways.
  - Kadena has 1,018 industrial buildings and 1,555 housing-related structures, including 15 hardened aircraft shelters and 25 security revetements.
- The 18th Civil Engineer Group is responsible for all the military housing on Okinawa, which totals 8,129 units.
- The 18th Operations Group is vital to readiness and generated 13,827 sorties and 26,488 flight hours in FY 99.
  - 1/3 of flying activity is conducted off station during exercises and support missions.
  - On the average, Kadena experiences about 1,000 takeoffs and landings per month which makes the base the busiest in the Pacific Air Forces.
  - In the event of a contingency or war, the base becomes a staging area for aircraft from the United States. During this time, the base can accommodate up to 170 aircraft.
- Kadena's medical clinic sees more outpatients, approximately 650, than any other Air Force clinic.
- Kadena is one of seven bases in Japan that fly the United Nations flag as part of the United Nations Command Rear (UNC) in support of South Korea. Kadena's main role is to provide facilities for aircraft to carry out U.N. operations in South Korea if required.



**STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE** — Kadena operations contribute to regional stability. Almost 40 percent of U.S. trade is with Asia, and 60 percent of the economic growth forecast for the next 10 years is in the Asia-Pacific region. The U.S. economy has become interdependent with those of East Asia. Many countries want a U.S. military presence here.

The *Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security*, signed in 1960, sets the parameters of U.S. - Japan bilateral engagement.

**Article Five** addresses response to attack within the territory of Japan.

*Each Party recognizes that an armed attack against either Party in the territories under the administration of Japan would be dangerous to its own peace and safety and declares that it would act to meet the common danger that is in accordance with its constitutional provision and processes.*

**Article Six** of the Treaty allows U.S. Forces to use the facilities and areas in Japan for maintaining regional peace and security.

*For the purpose of contributing to the security of Japan and the maintenance of international peace and security in the Far East, the United States is granted the use by its land, air and naval forces of facilities and areas in Japan. The use of these facilities and areas...shall be governed by a separate agreement...*

Leaders of both countries have repeatedly affirmed that the bilateral security relationship, based on the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between Japan and the United States, remains the cornerstone for achieving common security objectives and for maintaining a stable and prosperous environment for the Asia-Pacific region as it enters the 21st century.

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS

- Kadena is surrounded by three municipalities; Kadena Town and Chatan Town with populations of 14,000 and 24,000 respectively, and the island's second largest city, Okinawa City, with a population of 117,000.
- Local community initiatives include the aircraft noise abatement measures which eliminate routine training between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., numerous voluntary noise abatement measures and the Special Action Committee on Okinawa (SACO) measures which will relocate the Navy Ramp and aircraft. A noise barrier between the base and Kadena Town was completed in 1999.
- Community service includes assistance by Kadena Team members to senior citizen homes and orphanages as well as beach cleanups.
- International exchange activities include AmericaFest, usually held the first week of July, drawing 200,000 visitors; *Tomonokai* luncheons on Kadena which honor Okinawan elders; and DODDS/Okinawan School Exchanges with local schools to foster friendship and understanding of each country's culture.